



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Headquarters

Jean Lafitte National
Historical Park and
Preserve.

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Chalmette Battlefield Task Force Minutes

Date of Meeting January 29, 2003 4:00pm
Location: Council Chambers Meeting Room
St. Bernard Parish Government Complex
8245 W. Judge Perez Dr.
Chalmette, Louisiana

Present:

Mr. Eric Cager
Mrs. George W. Davis
Mr. Alvin W. Guillot
Mr. Drew Heaphy, CPA
Mrs. Elizabeth McDougall
Ms. Faith Moran
Capt. Bonnie Pepper Cook
Col. John F. Pugh, Jr.
Ms. Geraldine Smith
Mr. Tim Bemisderfer, *Federal Designated Officer for
Regional Director, Southeast Regional Office*

Absent:

Mr. Anthony A. Fernandez
Mr. Michael L. Fraering

Next Meeting: 3/26/2003, 4:00p.m. -6:00p.m.
Council Chambers Meeting Room
St. Bernard Parish Government Complex
8245 W. Judge Perez Drive
Chalmette, Louisiana

Ms. Elizabeth McDougall, committee chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m..

Members of the public in attendance were Mr. Justin Stephens, Mr. William Hyland, and Mr. Charles Peciquet. Park staff present included Dave Herrera, Deputy Superintendent; David Muth, Chief Resource Management and Planning; Daniel R. Brown, Chief Resource Education; Allison Pena, Park Ethnographer; Sue Davenport, Supervisory Park Ranger, Crescent City District; and Dee Landry, Administrative Assistant, Resource Management.

David Muth introduced Tim Bemisderfer as the currently assigned Federal Designated Officer. He is a Landscape Architect in the Planning and Compliance Division, National Park Service Southeast Regional Office-Atlanta.

David Muth presented slides and an overview of the past and present conditions of the Chalmette Battleground and National Cemetery. The slides included the site circa 1960, showing the community of Fanzenville, trees lost in the hurricanes of the 1960's, an aerial view showing the tour road, the ramparts, and the areas of present-day reforestation. Various cultural landscapes that have existed on the monument grounds were also discussed.

There was a general discussion of ideas for possible consideration including monument repointing and restoration; options to increase visibility of battlefield entrance; stabilization of the cemetery wall; options for the sewage treatment plant; and possible landscape considerations for the Malus-Bureaguard House and the National Cemetery.

Tim Bemisderfer gave a review of the planning process and the desirability of reaching a consensus within the committee. He stressed that the commission should review the enabling legislation documents with emphasis on the mission, purpose and significance of the park. From the committee recommendations preliminary site designs will be drafted for the preferred recommended options and a private contractor will assist with the Environmental Impact Assessment. Once a preferred alternative is selected, funding will need to be secured. He also invited the commission members to participate with the planning team. This might include formation of a sub-committee to interact with and advise the planning team as information is analyzed and alternatives are developed.

David Muth discussed the various park specific-planning documents. These included the park's General Management Plan/ Development Concept Plan 7/82, the Chalmette Battlefield Master Plan-Chalmette National Historical Park 1969, the Chalmette National Cemetery Cultural Landscape Report 8/99, and the Amendment to the General Management Plan 4/95.

Tim Bemisderfer stressed the need to identify issues the public, as stakeholders would like to include in the General Management Plan/ Development Concept Plan. The recommendations of the committee will not provide any direct funding but will help in the decision making and management of the park in the future.

New Business:

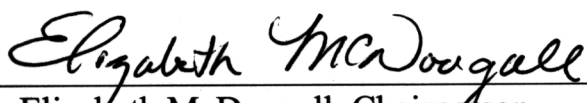
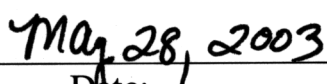
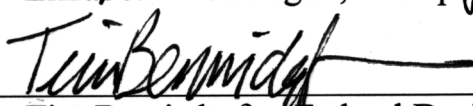
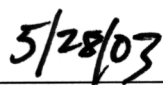
Mr. Paul Perez nominated Bonnie Pepper-Cook for vice-chairperson and the nomination was seconded by Ms. Faith Moran the nomination was carried by oral vote.

Ms. Elizabeth McDougall requested that Mr. William Hyland, St Bernard Parish Historian, Mr. Justin Stephens, Staff Representative for Congressman Billy Tauzin, and Mr. Charles Piquet, representative of the Living History Volunteers also be included in the meeting notifications and invited to future meetings. A meeting notification & agenda will be mailed out two weeks prior to the next meeting.

Pending meeting dates decided upon are: 03/29/03, 05/28/03, 07/30/03, 09/24/03, and 11/26/03.

Minutes of the November 20, 2002 meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote. They will be posted on the park web site at <http://www.nps.gov/jela>.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

		
Approved:	Elizabeth McDougall, Chairperson	Date:
		
Approved:	Tim Bemisderfer, Federal Designated Officer	Date: